

FA106 Introduction to Photography and the Analogue Darkroom

Seminar Leader: hannah goldstein

Email: h.goldstein@berlin.bard.edu

Office Hours: By appointment – Wednesdays 1- 3 pm

Course Description

This introductory course teaches the foundations of analogue black and white photography in and out of the darkroom. You will learn how the camera works, how to manually develop film and how to print in the dark room. There will be weekly assignments and lectures on the history of photography, as well as presentations of contemporary photography. During the first half of the semester class time will be devoted to working in the darkroom and learning how to make a perfect print. The second half will focus on picture content. A major part of the course is based on class discussions and learning to read and understand your images. In the second half of the course the students will work on a personal project. We will also make a studio visit to Berlin based artist.

Requirements

- Turn off phones during the entire class time, including off-campus trips. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.
- Presenting pictures and artworks, assignments and presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or arts staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Participation in the final exhibition, including installing and taking down the exhibition.
- Respond to emails from Professor in a timely manner.
- Inform Professor at beginning of semester if photos of student, artwork, works in progress are NOT to be taken and / or used for Bard College Berlin.
- Remove all artworks, art materials, and any personal belongings before the final inspection of the arts spaces during completion week. Failure to remove works and / or clean spaces used will result in final grade penalization. Donating artworks or art materials (unrequested) at anytime is not permitted and will still be considered student's property that will be expected to be uninstalled and removed.
- Students are expected to purchase rolls of 36 exposure Black and White film, photographic paper as needed and polypropylen bags to hold negatives + prints.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Syllabi should note that, instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Attendance

- Attendance of ALL classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will affect the participation grade for the course.
- Arriving late will be noted and after two late arrivals, the grade will be significantly affected.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling/travel conflict, Professor must be informed in advance.

Please see the Student handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

Grade Breakdown

50% of your grade will be based on your weekly presented prints and contact sheets throughout the semester.

30% on class participation and presentations.

20% on the final project.

Assessment

Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with Professor as well amongst themselves. This also includes their ambition to create artworks as well as their willingness to budget their time for all requirements connected to this class. This assessment also includes preparation, production, and cleaning up of spaces used at Bard College Berlin.

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments (artworks, essays, performances, oral presentations) that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Anticipated Costs for this Class

Each student will be expected to purchase their own film and paper for this class. We suggest buying materials with other students - it's cheaper!

Black and White Analogue Photography Materials list:

400 ASA film (or you can also try a 125 ASA film speed as well)

depending on film type between - €4- €7 per roll - sometimes you can buy film in bulk (blocks of 10 rolls) and it can be cheaper. You will need about 5+ rolls for the class.

Negative sleeves (Clear Negative sleeves)

7 stripes at 6 frames per stripe - €0.65 per sleeve
€11 - €17 for 25 packs dependent on type of sleeve

Photographic Darkroom Paper

paper prices vary:

FOMA Fomaspeed Variant 312 - Semi-Matte (RC) - 18x24

50 Sheets - Gradation: Variable = €25

ILFORD Multigrade IV 25M - Semi-Matte (RC) - 18x24

25 Sheets - Gradation: Variable = €22

ADOX Easy Print RC 312 - Pearl (RC) - 24x30 (little bigger)

10 Sheets - Gradation: Variable = €10

Polypropylen Sleeves (20x25cm 25 Per Pack) - for print protection

€9.65 for 25 pack

Negative Binder or folder of some type to keep and store your negatives organized

depends on what you get: between €2 - €10

Total amount can be between €75 - €100 for this class.

Materials suggestions and locations:

There are not that many photo stores in Berlin but here are a few where you can go to buy your materials:

General materials:

Fotopioniere, www.fotopioniere.com (they give a 5% student discount with your student ID) Karl-Marx-Allee 87, 10243 Berlin-Friedrichshain, (U5 Strausberger Platz or Weberwiese) Opening times: Mon - Fri: 11.00 to 20.00h, Sat. 11.00 to 18.00h

FOTOIMPEX, www.fotoimpex.de

Alte Schönhauser Str. 32b, 10119 Berlin-Mitte (U2 Weinmeister Str. - south exit!)

Opening times: Mon - Sat: 12.00 – 20.00h

Film suggestions:

FOTOIMPEX* CHM 400 Kleinbildfilm 135/36 = €4.15 (*only at FotoImpex) ILFORD Delta 400ASA 135/36 = €5.95 FotoImpex

KODAK TRI-X 400ASA 135/36 = €6.09 FotoImpex

ROLLEI RPX 400 135-36 = €5.25 at FotoImpex

Paper suggestions:

Most important: MULTIGRADE/Variabel paper!

Paper surfaces include: Hochglänzend (high gloss), Seidenmatt (silky matt), Pearl (pearl), and Matt (matt)

Paper brands: FOMA Fomaspeed (this paper is probably the cheapest of what's out there)

Ilford, ADOX Easy Print RC 311 (also cheap paper!)

Paper size should be either: 18 x 24cm (smaller) or 24 x 30cm (bigger)

If you don't want to process yourself, you can go to these labs for processing:
(It costs about €6 per roll)

Viertel vor 8 (<https://v8.de>), Pappelallee 7/8, 10437 Berlin (nr. M1 / U2 Eberwalderstr.)
Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm
Jetfoto, Dircksenstraße 89, 10178 Berlin (nr. Alexanderplatz)
Opening times: Mon - Fri: 9 - 8pm, Sat 11 - 8pm
Pixel Grain, Rosenstraße 17, 10178 Berlin (nr. Alexanderplatz)
Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm, Sunday 2 - 7pm

Weekly schedule

Please plan accordingly: this class requires a minimum of 6 - 10 hours weekly to print assignments.

Sept 5th

Introductions
Course overview
Factory introduction
Introduction to analogue photography

Sept 12th

Cameras and Starter Kit handed out
How to use the camera
How to develop film

Assignment: Shoot two rolls of film and develop.
Use 8 frames to shoot the same object/subject. Start at f4 and work your way up the scale.
Due date: Sept 19th at the beginning of class.

Sept 19th

Introduction to the darkroom
How to mix chemicals
How to use the enlarger
How to make a contact sheet
How to make a print
Introduction to assignment - Portrait

Assignment: Portrait
Shoot two rolls of film. Make two prints. Make two contacts
All relevant information about the printing (exposure time and F-stop of your lens at your enlarger station) MUST BE WRITTEN on the back of your print with PENCIL. This goes for every time you make a print.
Due date: Sept 26th at the beginning of class. Bring two prints and two contact sheets.

Sept 26th

History of photography lecture
Darkroom time and printing
Introduction to assignment - My Everyday

Assignment: My Everyday

Shoot two rolls of film. Make two prints. Make two contacts

Due date: Oct 10th at the beginning of class. Bring two prints and two contact sheets.

Oct 3rd

NO CLASS - PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Tag der Deutschen Einheit – German Unity Day.

Oct 10th

How to analyze a photograph lecture

Group critique – every student should bring two printed images to present to the class.

Introduction to assignment - The Cityscape

Assignment: The Cityscape

Shoot two rolls of film. Make two prints. Make two contacts

Due date: Oct 17th at the beginning of class. Bring two prints and two contact sheets.

Oct 17th

Group critique – every student should bring two printed images to present to the class.

Darkroom time

Introduction to assignment – Street photography

Introduction to Personal Project (10 printed images all due on December 12th at the beginning of class)

Assignment: Street photography

Shoot two rolls of film. Make two prints. Make two contacts

Prepare a short presentation of personal project ideas to present to class.

Due date: Oct 24th at the beginning of class. Bring two prints and two contact sheets.

Oct 24th

Group critique – every student should bring two printed images to present to the class.

Personal project ideas presented by students

Darkroom time

No assignment as we will not be on campus during our next class.

Oct 31st

NO CLASS - FALL BREAK

Nov 7th

Studio visit with Gilles Roudière

Assignment: Personal Project

Shoot two rolls of film. Make two prints. Make two contacts

Research on an assigned photographer. The student should prepare a 10-minute presentation on the work and life of the assigned photographer.

Due date: Nov 14th at the beginning of class. Bring two prints and two contact sheets. Prepared

presentation.

Nov 14th

Student presentations on assigned photographers.

Group critique – every student should bring two printed images to present to the class.

Individual meetings with Professor

Assignment: Personal Project

Shoot two rolls of film. Make two prints. Make two contacts

Due date: Nov 21st at the beginning of class. Bring two prints and two contact sheets.

Nov 21st

Group critique – every student should bring two printed images to present to the class.

KLEISTER project exhibition presentation – getting in the mind set for Open Studios

Assignment: Personal Project

Shoot two rolls of film. Make two prints. Make two contacts

Due date: Nov 28th at the beginning of class. Bring two prints and two contact sheets.

Nov 28th

Contemporary photography lecture: Focus Feminism

Group critique – every student should bring two printed images to present to the class.

Assignment: Personal Project

Shoot two rolls of film. Make two prints. Make two contacts

Due date: Dec 5th at the beginning of class. Bring two prints and two contact sheets.

Dec 5th

Group critique – Choosing three images for the show. Please bring all printed images from your personal projects so far.

Scanning of final prints for the Open Studios show.

Dec 12th

Final projects will be shown and critiqued.

Dec 13th

Installing the exhibition

Each student will show three images from their personal project.

Open Studios exhibition

Dec 14th

De-install of the exhibition

